ABRAHAMSON, REED & BILSE

ATTORNEYS AT LAW 200 RUSSELL STREET HAMMOND, INDIANA 46320-1818

HAROLD ABRAHAMSON SCOTT R. BILSE JOHN P. REED JONATHAN E. HALM

Telephone Number: (219) 937-1500 e-mail: aralawfirm@aol.com

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Keimen Demom Reed
(1937-1419) Facsimile: (219) 937-1524 Serves:

Harold Abrahamson & John P. Reed

Facsimile: (219) 937-3174 Serves: Scott R. Bilse & Jonathan E. Halm

January 25, 2012

CERTIFIED MAIL. RETURN RECEIPT

Deena Sheppard, Enforcement Specialist United States Environmental Protection Agency - Region 5 Superfund Division SE-5J 77 West Jackson Boulevard Chicago, Illinois 60604-3590



In re: Request for Information Pursuant to Section 104(e) of CERCLA regarding the Gary Development Landfill Site located at 479 Cline Avenue, in the City of Gary,

Lake County, Indiana.

CERCLIS ID No: IND077005916

Dear Ms. Sheppard:

I am the attorney representing Commercial Waste Systems, Inc. ("Commercial Waste"). By way of introduction, Commercial Waste, (also formerly known as Home Sanitation) is a small family owned company founded by Ronald Venema. Since Mr. Venema's passing, the company has been operated by his wife Thelma Venema, and his daughter, Amy Wellman. Commercial Waste has been a paper recycling company since the mid 1970's, and not involved in the collection or disposal of "municipal solid waste". Commercial Waste, in addition to paper recycling, was involved, on a very small scale, in the hauling and disposal of construction and demolition roll-off containers, a practice which the company ceased in the early 1990's. Home Sanitation, the predecessor to Commercial Waste, was a small local trash hauler that serviced residential and commercial accounts with the removal of general refuse, or municipal solid waste.

I have spoken at length with Ms. Amy Wellman, the General Manager of Commercial Waste Systems. Ms. Wellman has stated, unequivocally, that neither Commercial Waste nor Home Sanitation has ever been in the business of the hauling or disposal of Hazardous Waste(s). In point of actual fact, Commercial Waste and Home Sanitation had, back in the late 1980's, been brought into an action regarding the disposal of Hazardous Waste(s) in a lawsuit styled as "6500" Industrial Highway Group, and Unincorporated Association v. K.A. Steel Co, et al., Civil Action No. H89-0282. From what I can gather, Commercial Waste/Home Sanitation was/were named in the above-entitled suit based upon some bills of lading supplied to Commercial Waste/Home Sanitation by the plaintiffs. However, the bills of lading were altered by hand in an apparent effort of commit some sort of ruse. "Union 76 Oil Company" was scratched off of the bill of

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lading and the word "Home" was written in its place. Apparently someone took the handwritten word "Home" to mean Home Sanitation. I have attached these alleged bills of lading for your review as a part of Exhibit A.

Based upon this "evidence", Commercial Waste/Home Sanitation was voluntarily dismissed from the suit in 1991. (See Exhibit B). Thereafter, and in December of 1994, Commercial Waste/Home Sanitation was again named by the EPA as a potentially responsible party regarding contamination at the Conservation Chemical Company of Illinois, Inc. site in Gary, Indiana. (The same site referenced in the above-entitled 1989 lawsuit). In response to the inquiry of the EPA in 1994, Commercial Waste sent the correspondence attached hereto as Exhibit A as its response, along with the Affidavits enclosed therein. Thereafter, and on March 13, 1995, EPA sent the correspondence attached hereto as Exhibit C. Exhibit C is a certified letter from EPA stating that Commercial Waste may not be a potentially responsible party, and that Commercial Waste would be notified if additional information became available. Suffice it to state that nothing else was ever received.

Your Request for Information states that "EPA believes that Commercial Waste possesses information that may assist the Agency in its investigation of the site." Being that we are a very small company, and that we do not haul or dispose of Hazardous Waste, it will be especially difficult to provide any relevant information for your investigation. In addition, the Gary Development Landfill site opened some 36 years ago and closed some 23 years ago. The company simply does not have records dating back that far related to the Gary Development Landfill. We do not even possess accounting records dating back to the time in question.

I am apprehensive to answer the Information Request found in Enclosure 6 because virtually the entire request asks questions about Hazardous Waste, which we do not handle. I am aware that we have a duty to answer your requests, and to do so quite promptly. This is a duty neither myself nor the company take lightly. However, if you could share with me any information you have concerning Commercial Waste or Home Sanitation contributing to the issues at the site, it would be greatly appreciated.

Very truly yours,

Mond

John P. Reed

Commercial Waste Systems, Inc.

Innovative Recycling

P.O. BOX 435 CROWN POINT INDIANA 46307

(219) 769-7444 (312) 842-7681 FAX (219) 662-0918



December 6, 1994

Ms. Cynthia N. Kawakami
Assistant Regional Counsel
Office of Regional Counsel
Region 5
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
CS-29A
77 West Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604-3590

RE: Conservation Chemical Company of Illinois, Inc. Site, Gary, Indiana

Dear Cynthia:

Thank-you for taking the time to speak with me on several occasions regarding the above-mentioned matter. As indicated in our conversations, I believe that Commercial Waste Systems/Home Sanitation was mistakenly brought into this matter by Industrial Highway Group and request that our company dismissed from the pursuant matter as soon as possible. support of this request for dismissal, I have given a very brief history of the facts (noted together in this letter attached documents), have attached copies of the "linking documents" from your office which we received through a request, as well as three affidavits and a copy of our dismissal from the 6500 Industrial Highway Group vs. K.A. Steel suit.

background, Commercial Waste Systems is a small As a brief local paper company in the business of recycling. Commercial Waste Systems, Home Sanitation was a small local trash company which serviced both residential and commercial for the removal of general refuse, one of which was the CCCI site Commercial Waste Systems/Home Sanitation was brought into this matter by the 6500 Industrial Highway Group in 1989 and was dismissed in March of 1991. At that time, dutifully explained what our current and prior company did, also explained that neither our current company, nor the former hauling hazardous had ever been in the business οf substances or waste. Hence, we requested documentation supporting the 6500 Group's allegations.



The 6500 Group produced the same bills of lading which our company received from your office through the FOIA request. These bills of lading, which are attached, have Union 76 Oil Company's typewritten name scratched out and the name Home is written in place with what looks like a felt tip pen. In addition, these bills of lading state Lemont, Illinois, as the shipping point and CCCI of Gary, Indiana, as the destination site. However, at no time did Commercial Waste Systems or Home Sanitation ever ship, act as carrier from, or do business in Lemont, Illinois.

At that time, in support of these facts, I drafted two affidavits, one from my father, Ronald E. Venema, owner of Commercial Waste Systems/Home Sanitation, and one from Art Davis, former CCCI plant manager. These affidavits were provided to the 6500 Group in 1990, and our company was subsequently dropped from the litigation. A copy of each affidavit previously mentioned is attached to this correspondence.

In addition, since my father is now deceased, I have attached an affidavit from myself, as general manager of Commercial Waste Systems, attesting to these facts.

In sum, based on the supporting documentation and facts in this matter, we would appreciate being dismissed from this case as soon as possible. If I may be of any further assistance to yourself or any other member of your office regarding this matter, I may be reached at the above-mentioned number.

Very Truly Yours,

Amy J. Wellman, Esquire and General Manager

ATTACHMENTS

- A. EPA's Linking Documents to Commercial Waste Systems/Home Sanitation
- B. Affidavit of Ronald E. Venema
- C. Affidavit of Arthur E. Davis
- D. Affidavit of Amy J. Wellman
- E. Dismissal of Commercial Waste Systems/Home Sanitation in 6500 Industrial Highway Group vs. K.A. Steel

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AFFIDAVIT OF RONALD E. VENEMA

- I, Ronald E. Venema, named as a defendant in the matter of 6500 Industrial Highway Group vs. K.A. Steel, hereby declare the following:
- 1. I, Ronald E. Venema is owner and operator of Commercial Waste Systems Inc., hereinafter referred to as CWS.
- 2. CWS, and its predecessor, Home Sanitation Service, have been in operation since 1964. Home Sanitation Service, as CWS' predecessor, was in operation from 1964 to 1977.
- 3. From 1964 to 1977 CWS' primary source of business was to service several thousand residential accounts in Lake County, Indiana, for weekly removal of household refuse. In addition to the residential accounts, CWS also serviced approximately 100 commercial accounts in Lake County for similar removal of general refuse. Such accounts included restaurants, supermarkets, retail stores, and small manufacturers, with one of those being Conservation Chemical Company of Illinois, Inc., of Gary, Indiana, hereinafter referred to as CCCI.
- 4. Since 1977, and to the present date, CWS' enterprise has consisted of brokering paper stock, corrugated and computer printout, from commercial sites to recycling mills.
- 5. During the time that CWS serviced CCCI, approximately 1965-1977, CWS was contracted to (1) pick-up general solid waste material for disposal at the Gary City Dump, and (2) transport detinned steel scrap from M&T Chemical Corporation of East Chicago, Indiana, to the CCCI site in Gary.
- 6. At no time did CWS transport, handle, or engage in any activity whereby hazardous substances were brought to or disposed of at the CCCI site.

Wherefore, I attest that the foregoing is true and accurate and to the best of my knowledge.

Ronald E. Venema

Commercial Waste Systems Inc.

STATE OF INDIANA)

COUNTY OF LAKE)

Before me, A Notary Public in and for said County and State, did personally appear Ronald E. Venema, who acknowledged the execution of the foregoing Affidavit of Ronald E. Venema.

WITNESS my hand and Notarial seal, this 26th day of March,

1990.

Commission Expires: 2-19-94

Blaine Vanado ilung L.
Notary Public

Notary Public Lake County, Indiana

AFFIDAVIT OF ARTHUR E. DAVIS

- I, Arthur E. Davis, pertaining to the matter of <u>6500</u>

 <u>Industrial Highway Group vs. K.A. Steel</u>, hereby declare the following:
- 1. I, Arthur E. Davis, was the Plant Manager for Conservation Chemical Company of Illinois, Inc., hereinafter referred to as CCCI, of Gary, Indiana, from July, 1973, to June, 1975.
- 2. While I was the plant manager for CCCI my duties included, but were not limited to, the overseeing of all commercial vehicles either bringing materials into or leaving with materials from the CCCI site.
- 3. During my employment at CCCI I knew of Ronald E. Venema and his business Home Sanitation Service. Home Sanitation Service serviced CCCI in that Home's trucks picked-up general solid waste and trash for disposal.
- 4. At no time during my employment at CCCI did Home Sanitation Service transport, handle, or engage in any activity whereby hazardous substances were brought to or disposed of at the CCCI site.

Wherefore, I attest that the foregoing is true and accurate and to the best of my knowledge.

Arthur E. Davis

STATE OF INDIANA)

COUNTY OF LAKE)

Before me, A Notary Public in and for said County and State, did personally appear Arthur E. Davis, who acknowledged the execution of the foregoing Affidavit.

WITNESS my hand and Notarial seal, this 26th day of March, 1990.

Eluine Munachlungh

Notary Public Lake County, Indiana

Commission Expires:

2-19-94

AFFIDAVIT OF AMY J. WELLMAN

- I, Amy J. Wellman, whose place of employment is named in the matter of <u>Conservation Chemical Company of Illinois, Inc. Site, Gary, Indiana</u>, hereby declare the following:
- 1. That I am the current general manager of Commercial Waste Systems.
- 2. That my predecessor in this position was Ronald Venema, my father and employer.
- 3. That as an employee and family member I have intimate knowledge of both Commercial Waste Systems and Home Sanitation.
- 4. That Commercial Waste Systems is a small local paper company in the business of recycling, and its predecessor, Home Sanitation, was a small local trash company which serviced both residential and commercial accounts, one of those accounts being the CCCI plant in Gary, Indiana.
- 5. That during both my lifetime and employment by Commercial Waste Systems, I.know of no occasion where Commercial Waste Systems or Home Sanitation was involved in the transportation of hazardous material personally or in our company's records. In addition, to this date, neither Commercial Waste Systems nor Home Sanitation has ever shipped, acted as a carrier from, or done business in Lemont, Illinois.
- 6. That Commercial Waste Systems was named in litigation regarding the aforementioned matter by the 6500 Group in 1989. In response to the 6500 Group's allegations, I researched this matter and was the representative for Commercial Waste Systems. As such, I drafted the attached affidavits for both my father, Ronald Venema, and CCCI's former plant manager, Art Davis.
- 7. That subsequent to our providing the 6500 Group with Ronald Venema's and Arthur Davis' affidavits, and the 6500 Group giving no explanation why the name Home name was written on the side of the scratched out name of Union 76 Oil Company, Commercial Waste Systems/Home Sanitation was subsequently dropped from the 6500 Group's litigation.

Wherefore, I attest that the foregoing is true and accurate and to the best of my knowledge.

VICTORIA MARCINOV NOTARY PUBLIC, Lake County, Indiana My Commission Expires November 23, 1997 Resident Of Lake County, Indiana

Amy J. Wellman, Esquire and General Manager,

Commercial Waste Systems

Victoria Mucha

FILED

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT NORTHERN DISTRICT OF INDIANA HAMMOND DIVISION

MAR 18 1991

RICHARD E. TIMMONG CLERK
U.S. DISTRICT COURT

6500 INDUSTRIAL HIGHWAY GROUP, an Unincorporated Association, Plaintiff,

Vs. CIVIL ACTION NO. H89-0282

K. A. STEEL CO., et al, Defendants.

ORDER

This matter is before the Court on Plaintiff's Notice of
Dismissal. Upon consideration and the Court being duly advised
IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that the
Defendants, COMMERCIAL WASTE SYSTEMS and JENSEN-SOUDERS &
ASSOCIATES, INC., be and hereby are DISMISSED without prejudice.
SO ORDERED this 1874 day of March, 1991.

JUDGE, U.S. DISTRICT COURT NORTHERN DISTRICT OF INDIANA

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT NORTHERN DISTRICT OF INDIANA HAMMOND DIVISION

MAR 15 1991

6500 INDUSTRIAL HIGHWAY GROUP, an Unincorporated Association Plaintiff,	RICHARD E. TIMMONS, CLERK U.S. DISTRICT COURT NORTHERN DISTRICT OF INDIANA)
vs.) CIVIL ACTION NO. H89-0282
K. A. STEEL CO., et al Defendants.)))

NOTICE OF DISMISSAL

Comes now the Plaintiff, 6500 INDUSTRIAL HIGHWAY GROUP, an Unincorporated Association, by and through its attorneys, Burke, Murphy, Costanza Cuppy, by David K. Ranich and give notice of the dismissal of Defendants, COMMERCIAL WASTE SYSTEMS and JENSEN-SOUDERS & ASSOCIATES, INC. None of the above-referred Defendants have filed an answer or a motion for summary judgment, and pursuant to Rule 41(a)(1) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, notice is hereby given that the Defendants, COMMERCIAL WASTE SYSTEMS and JENSEN-SOUDERS & ASSOCIATES, INC. are dismissed without prejudice.

Respectfully submitted,

BURKE, MURPHY, COSTANZA & CUPPY Attorneys for Plaintiff

DAVID K. KANICH

720 W. Chicago Avenue East Chicago, IN 46312

(219) 397-2401



CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

DAVID K. RANICH

700 W. Chicago Avenue

East Chicago, IN 46312





UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 5 77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF:

MAR 1 3 1995 CERTIFIED MAIL RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

HSE-5J

Amy J. Wellman
Esquire and General Manager
Commercial Waste Systems, Inc.
P.O. Box 435
Crown Pt, IN 46307

RE: Conservation Chemical Company of Illinois, Inc. Site

Gary, Indiana

Dear Ms. Wellman:

After a review of available information, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) has determined that your company may not be a potentially responsible party under CERCLA, in the Conservation Chemical Company of Illinois, Inc. matter. At this time your company is being removed from the list of potentially responsible parties, however, should additional information become available, U.S. EPA will notify you.

Please contact Cynthia Kawakami of the Office of Regional Counsel at (312) 886-0564, or Linda Beasley, Enforcement Specialist, at (312) 353 - 2071, if you have any questions. Thank you for your cooperation and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Richard C. Karl, Chief

eched (Kal

Emergency & Enforcement Response Branch

EXHIBIT 6







7010 1870 0000 8828 9735



Abrahamson, Reed & Bilse

ATTORNEYS AT LAW
200 RUSSELL STREET
HAMMOND, INDIANA 46320-1818

To:

Deena Sheppard, Enforcement Specialist United States Environmental Protection Agency – Region 5 Superfund Division SE-5J 77 West Jackson Boulevard Chicago, IL 60604-3590

PLACE STICKER AT TOP OF ENVELOPE TO THE RICHT
OF THE RETURN ADDRESS, FOLD AT DOTTED LINE